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Hydrogenation Factory, Kozhikode.

* 54 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister of Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Committee appointed to consider the future of Hydrogenation Factory at Kozhikode has submitted its report and whether the Government have taken any and what decision on it? 9 a.m.

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Committee have been considered by the Government and suitable action taken."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has the factory started production? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Owing to the present power cut, we have not been able to start the factory and we may not be able to start it for another two or three months."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us what exactly is the policy of the Government, whether they are for continuance or for closure or for handing over to some other management? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Committee reported that whatever would be the final action, the work of construction not yet completed should be proceeded with. The Committee decided that for sometime the factory should be worked on a no-loss-no-gain basis, if possible to see how far there was a demand for vegetable oil in that area and how the supply of oil would be available. If, at a future date, there is a very good offer, the Government will consider the question of disposing of the machinery and the factory."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In the original budget estimate of 1952–53, the income from the factory was taken into account but it was given up in the revised estimate. May I know why the factory did not start production last year? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Because, first of all, all the machinery were not erected. Secondly, in view of the non-availability of groundnut oil, it was considered unwise to start working that factory in Kozhikode."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the fact that there is considerable public uneasiness in Malabar that Government are trying to have some deal with some foreign company with regard to this factory, will the Government give an undertaking that they will not undertake any such deal without consulting the House? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" So far as I am aware, I have not received any offer from any company from abroad. If the hon. Member would get me a good offer, I shall consider."

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SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The fact that groundnut oil is not available in that area is not a thing which is known only now. In view of this fact, what considerations weighed with the Government in starting the factory at Kozhikode? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is extremely difficult to fathom the intentions of the previous Government."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The feeling in Malabar is that the Government are likely to part with the factory. I want the Hon. Minister to assure the House that he would not part with it or enter into any deal without consulting the House. The people of Malabar want that the Government should not part with it."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member will concede that it is extremely difficult to answer a hypothetical question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that the factory is not likely to go into production in the next two or three months, why is it that the full income from the factory is included in this year's budget? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Nobody ever thought that the power cut would be imposed and the working of the factory would be affected."

Collection of grazing fees from the Agriculturists.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total amount collected by the Government as grazing fees from the agriculturists in the State?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Rs. 7·91 lakhs during 1951–52."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" In view of the acute shortage of grazing grounds in villages, may I know whether the Government will cancel the levy of grazing fees? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" In all areas where rainfall has failed in 1952–53, free grazing has been allowed."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH :—" May I know whether cattle breeding co-operative societies are exempted from paying grazing fees? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" Many of the lands that were granted on grazing pattas previously by zamindars were and are being converted into ryoti lands. What is the policy of the Government in regard to such lands? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Are the Sugalis and other tribal people exempted from the payment of grazing fees, Sir? "